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## SAME-MSP BOARD

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UNSUBSCRIBE or SUBSCRIBE to the monthly newsletter.

## HYBRID IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL MEETING: 10.28.2021

### Mississippi River Restoration and Resilience Initiative

Flooding and other extreme weather events, pollution, and runoff threaten the Mississippi River and surrounding communities. The health of the river is critical not just for the sake of the natural beauty, wildlife, and climate change-fighting capabilities of these resources, but for our economy and so our communities can thrive as well. The Mississippi River Resilience and Restoration Initiative (MRRRI) will coordinate efforts on conservation and environmental restoration along the entire river corridor and open grant opportunities for state and local governments, tribes, and nonprofit organizations. The MRRRI Act authorizes new federal investments to:

- Improve community resilience to climate change, and reduce flood risk by restoring floodplains, riverine wetlands, delta, and coastal wetlands, and backwaters;
- Improve drinking water quality in the Mississippi River and Gulf of Mexico by reducing polluted runoff;
- Protect and restore wildlife habitat and throughout the River corridor;
- Prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species in the River system; and
- Make dedicated investments in those communities that have born the highest costs of environmental degradation.

MRRRI will follow the successful model of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) to ensure coordinated and sustained federal investments to restore the Mississippi River and protect it as a healthy working river. With MRRRI, we have the chance to ensure this resource remains a healthy and thriving resource for generations to come.

**Speaker: Mr. Joshua Straka** serves as the District Director for the Office of Congresswoman Betty McCollum. He manages Congresswoman McCollum's Minnesota office operations and serves as a liaison between the public and federal agencies. Additionally, Mr. Straka develops policy objectives, strategies, and operating plans, and directs activities of the office in support of the congresswoman and her constituents.

**Details: Wednesday, October 28, 2021, at 12:00pm-1:00pm CST**

**Cost:** \$0 to \$25

#### Location Options:

**IN-PERSON: Reserve your spot ASAP!** Grumpy's Bar and Grill, 2801 Snelling Ave, Roseville, MN 55113 (lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m.)

**VIRTUAL:** Contact Dan Kvasnicka for the virtual link after registration.

**RSVP:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/194004331177>

If you are unable to access the Eventbrite page to register, please reach out to **Dan Kvasnicka** via email at [Daniel.kvasnicka@hdrinc.com](mailto:Daniel.kvasnicka@hdrinc.com) and he can get you registered via email.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

The following individuals have joined the SAME-MSP Post this month—thank you for joining us and welcome to the Minneapolis-Saint Paul Post!

- ★ Eric Henery, AECOM
- ★ Lorin Hatch, AECOM



## AUGUST MEETING SUMMARY

On August 18th, Robert Denton gave a presentation titled Projects in Karst Zones. Mr. Denton is a senior geologist and the first corporate karst geology Subject Matter Expert with Terracon out of the DC metro office in Ashburn, VA. He has been an avid caver since his teen years, which led to his interest in geology from a very young age. Bob is a Certified Professional Geologist and a Licensed Professional Soil Scientist. He is considered a national expert on stormwater management in karst terrains.



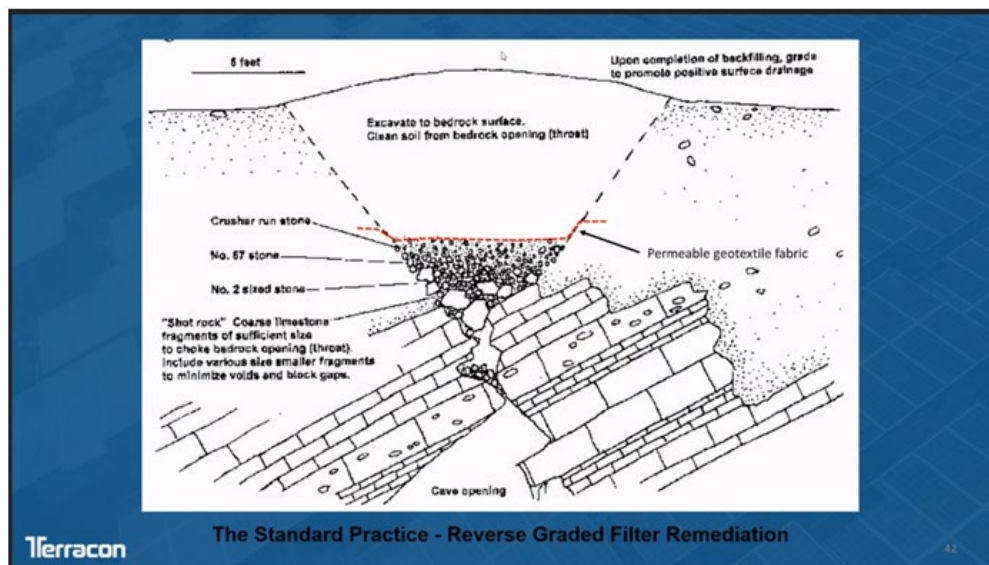
### WHAT IS KARST?

Karst is a landscape type that is identified by the presence of sinkholes, springs, caves, or a pinnacled, highly irregular soil-rock interface. The karst landscape is a result of the presence of soluble bedrock, most commonly carbonate rocks (e.g., limestone, dolomite, and marble). Karst can also develop in evaporate deposits such as gypsum, anhydrite, and halite.



### HOW DO YOU BEST DEAL WITH KARST FEATURES IMPACTING A PROJECT?

The ordered approach to dealing with a feature is to avoid, if possible, minimize impact, or remediate. The most significant risks and impacts occur during construction. The standard practice for sinkhole remediation is with a reverse graded filter, as shown in the figure below.



## UMN AFROTC AWARD RECIPIENTS

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The SAME ROTC Award of Merit was authorized in 1948 to be awarded annually to outstanding junior and senior engineering students in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC), a college-based program for training commissioned officers of the United States armed forces. Nominees must be actively enrolled in an ABET accredited school and in ROTC; be in the top 25 percent of their engineering class and in the top 25 percent of their ROTC class.

This year, two students from the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities, were awarded this prestigious honor - 2nd Lt. Caleb Sigfried and Cadet Cole Skadeland. Lindsey Roberts McKenzie, 2020-2021 SAME-MSP Post President, was granted the honor of presenting each recipient's bronze medal at separate private ceremonies at the historic University of Minnesota Armory Building. Major Christopher Halverson, USAF, and Assistant Professor of Aerospace Studies at the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities, was the nominator for both recipients.

2nd Lt. Caleb Sigfried is being honored for his enthusiastic leadership and academic success. Lt. Sigfried demonstrated these traits by graduating with a degree in Aerospace Engineering and Mechanics at the top of his class, all while meeting the rigorous demands of his Air Force ROTC training. He served as a teaching assistant in the Aerospace Engineering and Mechanics department for five different professors, as well as conducted a simulated in-flight stability project for the Air Force Research Lab's hypersonic satellite test, a critical component for future US weapon systems. Lt. Sigfried is constantly striving to learn and develop as a leader and future Air force Officer, ranking as a distinguished graduate and in the top 7% of his ROTC class.

Cadet Cole Skadeland is being honored for his academic accolades, resolute leadership, and exceptional performance in the ROTC program. Cadet Skadeland is currently a Mechanical Engineering student who has earned the academic award with distinction every year as a cadet and is ranked number 1 (by GPA) among his junior class. He is a top performer and a recognized leader of the cadet wing in his role as a deputy physical fitness officer and Field Training flight trainer. Cadet Skadeland is also an active member of the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities Medical Reserve Corps logistics strike team and was an instrumental member of the team who coordinated the 2020 Pre-Thanksgiving COVID-19 saliva testing program at the Field House. As part of this team, he helped prepare testing kits and personal protection equipment for 89,000 students and staff systemwide.



## SMALL BUSINESS CORNER

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Want to attend #SBC21 but need the approval of your manager? Download the justification letter that helps you prove it's vital for you to attend! Pull information from the small, medium and large business toolkits to fit your specific needs then send over to your manager. It's that easy!

[https://www.samesbc.org/justificationtoolkit.cfm?utm\\_source=linkedin&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_campaign=sbc21\\_justification1](https://www.samesbc.org/justificationtoolkit.cfm?utm_source=linkedin&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=sbc21_justification1)





## MFESTS AWARDS

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Congratulations to **Christopher Erickson** who was awarded the Minnesota Federation of Engineering, Science, and Technology Societies (MFESTS) Charles W. Britzius Distinguished Engineer Award and to **Dan Kvasnicka** who was awarded the MFESTS Young Engineer of the Year Award!



Dan Kvasnicka was nominated by the MSP Post and selected for the Young Engineer of the Year by the Minnesota Federation of Engineering, Science, and Technology Societies (MFESTS). The award was presented at the 2021 MFESTS Board Meeting held on June 22, 2021. Dan holds a Bachelor of Science, Civil Engineering degree from North Dakota State University and works at HDR, Inc. in Minneapolis as a Water Resources engineer and certified floodplain manager. Dan serves as Secretary of the SAME MSP Post and is involved with the conference planning committee of the Minnesota Floodplain Managers. The Young Engineer of the Year Award recognizes outstanding achievement by an engineer 35 years of age or younger based on educational and collegiate achievements; professional society activities; civic and humanitarian activities; engineering achievements and overall professional experience. Congratulations Dan!



Chris Erickson was nominated as the SAME MSP Post Charles W. Britzius Distinguished Engineer of the Year by the Minnesota Federation of Engineering, Science, and Technology Societies (MFESTS). The award was presented at the 2021 MFESTS Board Meeting held on June 22, 2021. Chris holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from Texas A&M University and a Master of Science in Civil Engineering from Utah State University. Chris works for the US Army Corps of Engineers, Saint Paul District as a Supervisory Program Manager where he serves as Full Assistant Deputy for Programs and Project Management Division. Chris has been active and held many leadership roles at MSP SAME Post including spearheading giving grants to schools for STEM activities. He has also been an active volunteer in his community. MFESTS presents the Charles W. Britzius Distinguished Engineer Award for recognizing outstanding lifetime achievements in the practice of engineering, contributions to the engineering profession, and actions enhancing the image of engineering in our society. Congratulations Chris!

## OPEN COMMITTEE AND LIAISON OPPORTUNITIES!

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Additionally, the following are the open committee and liaison leadership roles:

- ★ Awards Committee Chair
- ★ Website and Newsletter Coordinator
- ★ Small Business Liaison
- ★ Industry Day Committee Co-Chair

You can find a list of our current committee and liaison roles on our website at <https://www.same.org/Get-Connected/Find-a-Post/MPLS-STPL/Get-Involved/Committees>. Feel free to reach out to the person listed as currently holding that position if you have any questions about the role (email hyperlinks are included on the website). If you are interested in being part of the MSP Post leadership team, please reach out to Lindsey Roberts McKenzie at [president@samemsp.org](mailto:president@samemsp.org) or to David Johnson at [vp@samemsp.org](mailto:vp@samemsp.org). Please consider volunteering and get more involved with our active Post!



**THANK YOU!**

Thank you to all our Sustaining Firms—we appreciate your support and want to make sure all our members are aware of it, too!

- ★ AECOM
- ★ Anderson Engineering of MN
- ★ Ayres Associates
- ★ Benham Design, LLC
- ★ Bergmann Associates
- ★ Burns & McDonnell
- ★ Cardno Inc.
- ★ CDG Engineers, Inc.
- ★ Cushing Terrell
- ★ Damon Farber Assoc.
- ★ DLR Group, Inc.
- ★ Greenstone Construction Inc.
- ★ Hammel Green and Abrahamson
- ★ Hanson Professional Services
- ★ HDR
- ★ Houston Engineering, Inc.
- ★ HR Green, Inc.
- ★ J.F. Brennan Company, Inc.
- ★ Kaiyuh Services, LLC
- ★ Landmark Environmental
- ★ Leo A. Daly
- ★ LS Black Constructors
- ★ Mortenson Construction
- ★ RSP Architects
- ★ SEH
- ★ Siemens Industries, Inc.
- ★ Stanley Consultants
- ★ Stantec
- ★ Terracon Consultants
- ★ Ulteig
- ★ Vann Companies
- ★ Wood Group

**Did you know that as part of your sustaining membership we encourage you to talk about yourselves to our members?** Please email Dave Ausdemore at [dave@hsscience.com](mailto:dave@hsscience.com), if you would like more information on how to get involved!

